

**Tuesdays with Tammy Nevada Libraries Forum**  
from  
**Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records**  
10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Tuesday  
June 9, 2020

**Notes**

Attending: Tammy Westergard, Sulin Jones, Norma Fowler, Bruce Douglass, Betts Markle, Brett Silver, Liz Moore, NSLAPR: Guest speaker - Karsten Heise, Director of Strategic Programs, Governor's Office of Economic Development and SCLL; Amy Lauder, Diane Baker, Tod Colegrove, Carson City; Carol Lloyd, Churchill County; Marcie Smedley, Joy Gunn, Henderson; Elizabeth Robinson, Jessica Anderson, Humboldt County; Danielle Milam, LVCCCLD; Courtney Oberhansli, Mineral County; Forrest Lewis, Shelly Alexander, North Las Vegas; Alysha Wogee, Amy Bruno, Shanna Gibbons, Susan Wonderly, Pahrump; Kathy Brinkerhoff, Pershing County; Jeanne Bleecker, Smoky Valley; Joan Dalusung, Washoe County; Cyndi O, NV Library CoOp; Holly Esposito, Washoe Co. School District; Caprice Roberson, CSN; Eric Walsh, Great Basin College; Jeanne Price, UNLV Law Library and SCLL; Ron Belbin, WNC; Sarah Bates, Washoe County Law Library; Nancy Schmidt, SCLL.



## **WHAT PEOPLE ARE THINKING RIGHT NOW**



### **Strengths:**

- Libraries possess a visible position within our communities
- Libraries are working with state and local government to lessen the impact of COVID19
- Libraries are accelerating available programming involving certification, work skills, and education



### **Struggles:**

- Libraries are finding it challenging to raise public awareness about the resources and programs offered
- Need to tell the library story and inform about the resources available to the public
- Economic funding
- Trying to anticipate future problems and how to respond to them
- Dealing with living with COVID19 virus
- Need for unified message



## Opportunities

- Demonstrating value of libraries in assisting with reopening of Nevada.
- Development of virtual and digital service programming for the public.
- Using this time to develop an action plan for all libraries that deals with the new library environment.
- Connecting with policymakers and elected officials to “gain a permanent seat at the table”



## Trends

- Phased in re-opening of libraries is beginning.
- Acceleration of library programs that will support community stability and well-being, education, and entrepreneurship.
- Libraries are improving the visibility and profile of their digital content and services.
- Libraries fill key gaps in essential community services, including offering certification courses and portable job skills training for adults, food security for families, out of school time learning for children, and connectivity for everyone
- Multi-level communication and strengthening the internal and external bonds of the Nevada library community will continue.

Announcements: Tammy Westergard welcomed everyone and acknowledged the work and efforts of Nevada’s 34<sup>th</sup> Attorney General, Aaron Ford, to communicate and bring people together during this time of national upheaval by hosting a bipartisan [Justice and Injustice Legislative Panel](#) this past Sunday. She asked for reflection and sending thoughts to the family of George Floyd and the events occurring in the wake of his death.

She also mentioned that the Nevada Economic Forum, which provides economic forecasts regarding Nevada, will be held 8:30 a.m. Wednesday 6/10/20.

A Libguide on the NSLAPR website will contain the phased reopening plans and documents of all Nevada libraries. Libraries are requested to send final phased-reopening plans when complete as a helpful reference for all libraries to exchange ideas.

Guest Speaker: Karsten Heise is Director of Strategic Programs, Governor’s Office of Economic Development, and a SCLL member. He will discuss the role of libraries going forward during the current economic crisis both here in Nevada and the rest of world, the Nevada economic recovery plan, where libraries can see themselves in the economic recovery and the programs that fit into the recovery plans.

- The response to the COVID19 pandemic must be put in context of the global situation. This is the first global severe recession since the great depression.
- The abruptness of this crisis is unique from past crises. This is a new situation that no one has encountered before.
- There are no near certainties, only strong possibilities, when it comes to economic projections.
- Economic recovery will be slow and we can expect high levels of unemployment and sub-par economic growth for the next few years.
- Most current economic projections are based on one wave infection; however, pandemics usually last for two years with many waves of infection, which leads to a slower recovery.
- Large Metro areas are hardest hit by the infection. These areas are the centers of innovation and economic growth.

- We should embrace the thought that there will be no post-COVID19 era and that it will be with us for some time and consider the implications that will have for us. If the past is an indicator, this will be a time of great entrepreneurship and acceleration of social and business trends.
- The response to the crisis by libraries should be to embrace programming and resources that deals with entrepreneurship, workforce development, coding, and other programs that fit the situation.
- 34% of Nevada's economy has been severely impacted by Covid-19
- Libraries can be a strong resource in the recovery for people and businesses by: providing guidance for small and medium enterprises; training and skills that are in short supply (health care, manufacturing, and coding); and access to education
- Libraries already have initiatives in these areas but they need to be scaled up
- Libraries need to tie current and new initiatives to the recovery plan
- Libraries need coordinated outreach efforts with a coherent narrative outlining an overall holistic strategy

Danielle Milam: LVCCLD is addressing many of the areas Karsten mentioned; for example,

- A partnership MOU with Southern Nevada Workforce Connections is being expanded this year and LVCCLD will be opening a small business development center at the Sahara West branch which will tap into the efforts of the Metro Chamber and LVGEA to build the small business development sector. It will be a nice addition to the One Stop Career Centers which are building their capacity to bring in the full compendium of 17 agencies with all services, not just unemployment.
- They are also working with the Department of Education on Adult Literacy with one of the larger ESL programs in the state and have added Career Online High School which gives students the opportunity to get a high school degree. They have four makerspaces which are a pipeline for youth to get tech skills for emerging industries and will help fill high demand jobs in a more accelerated way.
- Additionally, LVCCLD's phased-in reopening plan is structured to help Nevadans get back on their feet quickly by making all library computers available out on the floor so state agencies such as DWSS can help families access programs such as SNAP and WIC and DETR can work with people on unemployment services. They can also work with any agencies in the state for small business development and will continue through phase three with specialized, reservation-based services.
- Libraries throughout the state also have immense databases for students and provide a deep bed of resources to add to the equation as recovery efforts accelerate. Libraries are part of the solution and can help people adopt technology, not just for specific certifications but in a broader way by giving people access to technology.
- Danielle expressed the hope that all of Nevada's working families will be part of the progress moving forward and that resources will be realigned so that the have-nots are also part of the progress plan with working families getting the transportation, food, and housing supports they need.
- There is an opportunity for both the education and economic development sectors to work together and realign resources in a more cohesive and coordinated way.

Joan Dalusung: These conversations are important to help frame our points and initiatives for bridging the digital divide and Workforce Development for any upcoming special or regular legislative sessions ahead.

Forrest Lewis, NLA President: I want to add my appreciation of the conversation and Karsten for coming in to speak with us today. Libraries have come a long way, but there are so many people who don't know about what the library can offer. As libraries, it is imperative to get a seat at the table at state level discussions so we can bring our resources together for the community.